

A Call to Prayer

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Part 3

From “I ask whether you pray, because diligence in prayer is the secret to eminent holiness.” to “But if you do not wish to be a backsliding Christian, remember the questions I ask you: DO YOU PRAY?”

To what two types of believers does the author draw distinctions?

BELIEVERS WHO ARE GROWING SPIRITUALLY AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT / “PEOPLE WHO SEEM NEVER ABLE TO GET ON FROM THE TIME OF THEIR CONVERSION.” [¶ BEGINNING WITH QUOTED ANSWER, 1ST SENTENCE] / “PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO BE ALWAYS ADVANCING.” [¶ BEGINNING WITH QUOTED ANSWER, 1ST SENTENCE]

Do you agree with the author's generalization? Why or why not?

ANSWERS WILL VARY, BUT THE FACILITATOR SHOULD POINT TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S OWN EXPERIENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN WALK TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS TRUE IN HIS/HER LIFE THAT SPIRITUAL GROWTH OCCURRED MOST CONSISTENTLY WHEN HE/SHE PRAYED MOST CONSISTENTLY.

What conclusion does the author reach concerning the difference between the two kinds of believers?

THOSE WHO ARE GROWING SPIRITUALLY ARE PRAYING. [¶ BEGINNING, “NOW HOW CAN WE ACCOUNT FOR THE DIFFERENCE WHICH I HAVE

JUST DESCRIBED?”, LAST SENTENCE]

What do some believers consider genuine holiness to be?

IT IS A SPECIAL GIFT FOR A RARE GROUP OF BELIEVERS. [¶ BEGINNING, “I DARE SAY THIS OPINION WILL STARTLE SOME READERS.”]

“Prayer obtains _____ and _____ outpourings of the _____. He alone begins the work of _____ in a man's heart. He alone can carry it forward and make it _____.”

FRESH / CONTINUED / SPIRIT / GRACE / PROSPER. [¶ BEGINNING WITH ABOVE QUOTE, 1ST - 3RD SENTENCES]

In what way can a believer stand firmly against habitual sins?

PRAYER. [¶ BEGINNING, “PRAYER IS THE SUREST REMEDY AGAINST THE DEVIL AND BESETTING SINS.”]

What does the author state as the reason for backsliding?

NEGLECT OF PRAYER. [¶ BEGINNING, “I ASK WHETHER YOU PRAY, BECAUSE NEGLECT OF PRAYER IS ONE GREAT CAUSE OF BACKSLIDING.”]

What do you understand backsliding to be?

ANSWERS WILL VARY BUT SHOULD REFLECT REBELLION AND ANY GROWTH IN COLDNESS TOWARD CHRIST AND THE THINGS OF GOD.

What are symptoms of a backslider? (hint: begins with a wounded conscience)

WOUNDED CONSCIENCE / A MIND SICK OF ITSELF / A HEART PEIRCED BY THE LORD / A

BROKEN SPIRIT / GUILT OF SELF-ACCUSATION. [¶
BEGINNING, "IT IS A MISERABLE THING TO BE A
BACKSLIDER.", 4TH SENTENCE]

How have you seen the above answer play out in your life?
ANSWERS WILL VARY

What kinds of things can a believer do prayerlessly that
will be the downward steps toward backsliding?

BIBLES READ / SERMONS HEARD / MARRIAGE /
TRIPS / LIVING / FRIENDSHIPS / HEARTLESS DAILY
PRAYER. [¶ BEGINNING, "BIBLES READ WITHOUT
PRAYER..."]

"You may be very sure men fall in _____ long
before they fall in _____. They are backsliders
on their _____ long before they backslide
_____ in the eyes of the world."

PRIVATE / PUBLIC / KNEES / OPENLY. [¶
BEGINNING WITH ABOVE QUOTE, 1ST & 2ND
SENTENCES]

How has this chapter encouraged/challenged you to pray?

*You can download reading guides for A Call to Prayer and other
books at www.lifeisworship.com on the Resources page.*

beseech -- beg
eminent -- notable
entreated -- begged, pleaded with
palsy -- paralyzed
pliable -- easily influenced